Mamadou Mouctar Diallo
Member of National Parliament of Guinea
President of the NFD Party (Nouvelles Forces Démocratiques)
Former Minister
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T. +224 [illegible] 21 10 75

Conakry, July 25, 2017

Honorable Juge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

RE. Request for Leniency

Dear Juge Cote

I am Mouctar Diallo, Member of the Guinean Parliament, President of the political party Nouvelles Forces Démocratiques (NFD), former minister and university professor. Since 1988, I have been active in the struggle for Guinea to become truly united and democratic and prosperous.

I know Minister Mahmoud Thiam very well as we have interacted extensively and I worked with him within the government of Guinea. I can attest to his ability, kindness, humanity, social skills, sense of justice, competence and work ethics. He supported me just as he supported many people from all walks of life. He cares about his family, his friends and Guinea. He likes to be of service to others, especially the disadvantaged.

Indeed, he has always shown great rigor in his approach and point of view as a member of the government, always insistent on respecting principles of transparency and good governance, the law and the national interest as prerequisites for decision making and action taking. He was keen in making sure all projects would improve the lives of the Guinean population, especially around matters such as public transportation, school construction, health centers, road building and creation of revenue generating activities for Guineans in general, children, youth and women especially.

He initiated several mining projects that were designed to create thousands of jobs for the Guinean population that suffers from endemic unemployment.

He actively supported several organizations around human rights, women's rights and children's rights. Similarly, he supported the fight against violence inflicted to women and children.

For all these reasons, I implore your mercy for his sentencing, as his family, especially his young children, his friends and Guinea sorely need him.

Please accept, Your Honor, my deepest respect and my sincere anticipated gratitude.

Mamadou Mouctar Diallo

[signature]

Daouda Camara,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, July 25th, 2017

To: Honorable Judge Denise Cote

United States District Court

Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007

Subject: Mahmoud Thiam Case

Dear Judge Cote,

My name is Daouda Camara, a 25-year-old Guinean working as a junior software developer at Syntronic Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur. I have known Mr. Mahmoud and his family for 7 years. With his help, support and good ambition for the future of Guinea, I now have a college degree in Computer Science from Universiti Tenaga Nasional.

In 2010, I won first place in a mathematical competition organized by a local NGO, *Prix Qui Veut Peut;* the prize giving ceremony was broadcasted on a local TV channel. Mr. Mahmoud got to know me from the broadcast and immediately went to my high school to get my contact from the headmaster of the school. He contacted me and told me that I was a brilliant student and that he was going to help me get a Malaysian scholarship. I then translated my academic records and submitted my application. The same year, I was ranked 3rd nationwide at the national high school baccalaureate exam and was awarded a scholarship by the government to study in Morocco. The Malaysian scholarship was only ready after I spent one year studying in Morocco. It was an opportunity for me to learn a second language, namely, English. So, I decided to leave Morocco and went back to Guinea to sit for an English test from which I was the first student to be selected for the scholarship. However, the scholarship did not cover the cost of my flight ticket to Kuala Lumpur. I was worried. Knowing my poor financial situation, Mr. Mahmoud did not hesitate to buy my flight ticket.

Mr. Mahmoud's family has shared with me the situation in which he is in, and I understand it. His support for my education has brought me many opportunities. When I was in college, I represented my university in many programming contests, national Malaysian programming competitions and an international programming contest (ACM ICPC 2015 Singapore). As a member of a programming club of my college, I helped organize an internal programming contest among students from all levels. This uncovered brilliant and motivated students who started participating and winning many national Malaysian competitions making the university proud. This would not have happened without the help of

Mr. Mahmoud. After his legal issues are settled, it is my wish to work with Mr. Mahmoud to help continue motivate and reward brilliant students of Guinea.

For me, Mr. Mahmoud is a good person. I will always be indebted to him for his dedication for my sake. He is from a very good family. In fact, my father had worked as a tiler for his parents long before he learnt about me on TV. My father did not personally know him, but knew his parents. My father always speaks highly of his parents. He worked for one of his parents who once advised him: "You human, you came to this world crying while people around you are smiling, so work hard and do good so that when leaving this world people around you are crying while you are smiling".

Thank you, Your Honor, for considering these thoughts as you deliberate on the appropriate sentence.

Respectfully yours,

Daouda Camara

Ousmane Habib Fofana
Taouyah, Ratoma
Conakry Guinea

To:
Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern district of New York
500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007

Subject: Mr Mahmoud Thiam Case

Dear Judge Cote,

My mane is Ousmane Habib Fofana I am 26 years old. Few years ago, I was lucky to beneficiate a full scholarship to pursue my degree studies which Mr Mahmoud Thiam helped me to get. With me, 14 others underprivileged youth girls and boys have also beneficiated a high-quality education program in Malaysia. Our families were not able to afford for us such education program as we were from very low-income families. However, I have graduated in Human Resource Management early this year and I would never be able to thanks Mr Thiam for by helping me and my fellow countrymates getting such opportunity. Today almost all of us have finished our bachelor degrees, some are continuing their master degree, and some are back to Guinea and are already employed. Few years ago, we were just some poor youth living in a third world country with no proper education opportunities and hope at all but today Mr Thiam unconditional help has given us the opportunity to be degree holders with bright future who are the hope for 15 different disadvantaged families and the whole nation. We would have never had such opportunity without the kindness of Mr. Thiam who is a good man he has always stood up for underprivileged communities. When I was kid I have been victim of an accident pot of hot water burned my whole body with this accident and the low income of my family my life had no meaning until the day Mr Thiam stood up to help me pursue my education. Mr Thiam has helped my country to get a Train line "Conakry Express" which helps millions of people to move everyday at very affordable cost. All these contributions illustrate that how Mr Thiam has been caring for disadvantaged people, personally I would never be able to thank him for his help. Recently I have been really shocked to learn that Mr Thiam was victim of accusations and was currently in the hands of the justice, Mr Thiam is a socially engaged, very religious and honest person and I believe such man cannot cause any harm to people or society. Mr Thiam is seen by millions of people as a philanthropic person who cares for justice and fairness. Such person does not deserve to be accused and I believe right now his kids, wife, family members and friends miss him every day. I would like to call your honourable person to please to release him.

Hoping for a favourable ending for Mr Thiam in this case, please your Honour Judge Cote receive my most respectful greetings.

OUSMANE HABIB FOFANA

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ECF Children's Fund

July 25, 2017

To: Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District Court of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10097

In re: **MAHMOUD THIAM**

Dear Judge Cote;

My name is Anna Getaneh Haile – Mariam. I have been a close friend of Mahmoud Thiam and his family for over 30 years. I am of Ethiopian origin, born in Sweden and raised in several countries. It was during our stay in Belgium that I met Mahmoud Thiam.

I have a BA degree from the University of Maryland, in Management Studies/Marketing. I have spent most of my career working in the fashion industry, initially as an international fashion model and more recently as a fashion designer and social entrepreneur, based in Ethiopia, under my company African Mosaique.

I am also the founder and Chairwoman of The Ethiopian Children's Fund (ECF Children's Fund). A special community-based school and development center on the out skirts of Addis Ababa, providing free education, healthcare and nutrition to over 750 destitute children in need. Currently, the special school is in it's 18th year of operation, and has received recognition for its successful education system model with high performing students, especially at risk rural girls, who would not have otherwise received education.

I reconnected with Mahmoud Thiam in the early 1990's, when we were both living and working in Manhattan, it was also the time I founded ECF Children's Fund. From the onset Mahmoud has been a trusted advisor and confidante, and a founding board member, to help set up, sustain and assist this social benefit organization up until December 2016. It was an ambitious goal, to help provide long term/sustainable solutions to rural children in a low income country and we succeeded. And now our plan is to open more schools across the country.

ECF

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ECF Children's Fund

Throughout the years I have known Mahmoud, he has always been very supportive and dedicated. He has demonstrated a deep love and respect for Africa and its people. When he called me to inform he was returning to Guinea to serve his country as Minister, I was very worried, and concerned, as I know how politics can be in Africa, especially in the often contested area of natural resources. I was also worried about his health condition; his insomnia, his chronic foot pain and diabetes.

But I knew it was important to him, and that he really wanted to be part of 're-building his country.' Even after the tragic death of his father, who was brutally executed, by Guinea former President, when he was only 4 years old, and despite having lived most of his life separated from his mother and sister, with extended family, he still wanted to return to his country he loves so much, to serve and to help ensure that its natural wealth be exploited for the benefit of the country and its citizens.

He often spoke about his aspiration to make a difference, and this was going to be his biggest opportunity.

Mahmoud is no doubt highly intelligent and accomplished in his career and profession. But he is much more. I have known him to be a kind and generous person. I have never known him to wish to hurt or harm anyone, even those who have hurt him. His love for his family is unwavering, and would never risk anything to hurt them.

I was shocked, like several others, when we heard of his arrest. In the 30 plus years I have known Mahmoud, I have never doubted his integrity, his reliability. He has always been passionate and committed to selfless causes such as our ECF project.

He was always determined to make something meaningful of his life. From my understanding he is accused of money laundering to sustain his lavish lifestyle. Mahmoud has worked very very hard over most of his career for what he has achieved, to provide for his family and all those he supports around him. A prison sentence will destroy all that he has worked for.

Code 1110 P.O. Box 176 Tel. 011-662 08 65 // Tel/Fax 011-662-57-33 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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ECF Children's Fund

ECF

I believe with all my heart that Mahmoud would not simply jeopardize all that he has worked for. He and his wife come from a very respected and noble family line in West Africa, with strong values that take pride in the family name, traditions and deep faith. When he moved to Guinea, he made a personal sacrifice to be away from his family to serve his country.

So many others and I are deeply saddened by the tragic saga of intrigue and misfortune that he has suffered.

I am writing to humbly implore you to find the maximum compassion in your wisdom and judgment in the sentencing of Mahmoud Thiam. He is a highly dedicated father of 3 lovely girls, a loving husband and a man who has consistently given his time and more to deserving causes.

He is under no scenario or circumstance, a threat to the public or anyone. I strongly believe he would be far more useful to society, to being the law abiding, God fearing, role model to so many young Africans and looking after his family.

Your Honour, it is my sincere hope and prayer that you can look closely and compassionately upon the case of this family and civically-minded man, and find him to be worthy of your considered leniency.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Getaneh Haile-Mariam
Founder and Chairman of ECF

Code 1110 P.O. Box 176 Tel. 011-662 08 65 // Tel/Fax 011-662-57-33 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
info.ecf@gmail.com www.ethiopianchildrensfund.org

STROM
Bénin

July 25, 2107

Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

RE: Request for Leniency

Dear Judge Cote,

I have the honor of soliciting your highest benevolence, a plea for leniency for my friend Mahmoud THIAM.

My name is Dr. Abdou Raman SOUMANOU. I hold a PhD in Communications and I am the Chairman of a company named STROM, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with branches in several African countries such as Togo, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.

Mahmoud THIAM was introduced to me by a mutual friend over ten years ago. From this friendship emerged a professional and brotherly relationship. This led me to meet his wife and three children who adopted me. In them I found a united family, and loving and dedicated parents of well rounded children. Mahmoud THIAM never missed an opportunity to remind his children the virtues of respect and compassion. I saw in Mahmoud THIAM a man of impeccable rectitude, honest, respectful in his commitments and of unquestionable kindness and compassion. This led me to introduce him my social work.

He immediately accepted to be my principal financial support in the sponsoring and care of 103 orphans for more than five years. This support made possible concrete and indelible actions in the life of all these children. Mahmoud THIAM discretion and great humility always led him to stay anonymous on the subject of the immense moral and financial support he brings to these children. He used to say: "Life's beauty is in sharing".

You will understand, dear Judge Cote, our immense shock and astonishment when we learned what happened to this man who always provided wise advice. These news profoundly unsettled our lives, destroyed the life of his family, the orphan children and all the other commitments of this good man. We are all helpless in the face of this accusation. Thus, dear Judge Cote, please accept our humble request for leniency as this sentence impacts many lives his wife, his daughters, his family and the 103 orphan children. His absence has already been painfully felt by the orphans during the last Christmas celebrations and in the school financial matters.

Honorable Judge Cote, all this community, especially the children, join me in imploring your leniency in the sentencing of Mahmoud THIAM and your consideration of all these factors in your decision. His absence is a burden on us all and we wish with all our hearts for it to be as short as possible.

Honorable Judge Cote, you will find attached a few activity and progress reports about the orphans.

In hope of your favorable consideration, please accept my most sincere gratitude.

Abdou Raman SOUMANOU
Chairman, STROM.SA

SOS VILLAGES
D'ENFANTS
BENIN

Monsieur Abdou Raman SOUMANOU
Président Directeur Général
STROM S.A.
World Trade Center, Route de l'Aéroport
BP 850 Genève
Suisse

Abomey-Calavi, le 28 septembre 2016

Monsieur le Président Directeur Général,

Je sais que vous les attendiez déjà et les voilà: les dernières nouvelles sur vos filleuls.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais vous rappeler que SOS Villages d'Enfants est une organisation qui dépend de dons et que ses ressources sont encore limitées. Afin de recueillir des fonds au niveau local, un concert de collecte de fonds a été organisé il y a quelques semaines en partenariat avec deux artistes musiciens populaires qui ont accepté d'accompagner le projet gratuitement, par amour pour les enfants. Permettez-moi de vous dire que la situation économique actuelle de notre pays est un peu difficile. Mais, même si nous n'avons pas levé autant de fonds que nous le souhaitions, des personnes ont contribué financièrement pour aider le village à répondre aux besoins des nombreuxenf anst qui sont à notre charge.

Une vue partielle du concert de charité.

Maintenant ,permettez-moi de vous raconter quelques histoires sur vos filleuls.

Nouvelles sur : Rouhaïmatou

Rouhaïmatou en classe.

Dans la hâte pour la reprise de l'école.

Rouhaïmatou est retournée à l'école avec enthousiasme et excitation. En effet, quelques jours avant son départ en vacances scolaires, ils lui ont dit que son école serait réparée et peinte à nouveau. Alors, quand elle était de retour des vacances de fin d'année scolaire, la seule chose qu'elle voulait était de savoir à quoi l'école ressemble maintenant. Elle demandait toujours à sa mère SOS : « quand allons-nous retourner à l'école?» Cette question revenait souvent sur les lèvres de Rouhaïmatou jusqu'à ce que le premier jour de la rentrée scolaire soit arrivé à nouveau.

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D'ENFANTS
BENIN

Apprendre à lire couramment et à écrire.

Elle était si heureuse de se retrouver dans sa nouvelle classe, avec de nouveaux meubles et les murs flambant neufs. 'C'est comme à la maison; si contente d'être ici! ', dit-elle. Elle est maintenant en troisième année année; contrairement à l'année dernière quand ils utilisaient l'ardoise et la craie uniquement, elle est en train d'apprendre à lire couramment et à recopier les leçons dans ses cahiers. Comme elle est dans la même classe que trois de ses sœurs SOS, cela est devenu comme une compétition entre les quatre.

Une compétition circonstancielle.

Lorsque Rouhaïmatou est à la maison, elle s'accorde généralement peu de repos, en particulier en ce qui concerne l'apprentissage de ses leçons. Un jour, son frère aîné SOS nommé M'po a dit à elle et à ses autres sœurs qu'il va féliciter celle parmi elles qui sont capables de réciter leurs leçons sans faire d'erreur ni bégayer. Rouhaïmatou et ses trois sœurs ont pris cela comme un défi sérieux. Elles ont toutes accepté et ont participé; à la fin de la compétition, elle fut classée deuxième parmi les quatre. En récompense de ses efforts, leur frère aîné lui a offert un stylo bleu. Quand elle a reçu la récompense, Rouhaïmatou a crié: 'Ouais! J'y suis quand même arrivée'...

Nouvelles sur : Fouléra

Visite à la grand-mère pendant les vacances scolaires.

Comme l'an dernier, Fouléra a passé à nouveau une partie des vacances scolaires en dehors du village d'enfants SOS. Elle est restée avec sa grand-mère pendant près de six semaines. Quand elle est revenue dans le village d'enfants, elle a été captivée par l'éclat et le nouvel aspect de leur maison. En effet, les travaux de rénovation étaient encore à leurs débuts, quand elle partait pour ses vacances.

Foulera reprend la deuxième année.

Peu après son retour des vacances scolaires, Foulera a repris à nouveau l'école. Comme je vous l'ai dit l'année dernière, son rendement scolaire n'était pas satisfaisant. A l'époque nous avons tous pensé qu'elle pourrait inverser cette tendance et être en mesure de se qualifier pour la validation de l'année et passer en classe supérieure. Mais malheureusement, les résultats scolaires de Foulera n'ont pu lui permettre d'atteindre ce niveau. Foulera est alors contrainte de reprendre la deuxième année actuellement.

Fouléra en classe.

Fournir plus d'efforts que l'an dernier.

Les disciplines de classe comme l'écriture et la lecture étaient très difficiles à comprendre à Fouléra l'an dernier. Mais cette fois-ci, elle fournit plus d'efforts qu'autrefois. Ses compétences en lecture s'améliorent progressivement, ainsi que son écriture aussi. « Elle avait l'habitude d'écrire avec de grosses lettres; mais tout cela est en train de changer maintenant », dit sa mère SOS. Les résultats sont prometteurs. Il ne pouvait même pas en être autrement, car il y a aussi une sorte de compétition entre elle et l'une de ses sœurs qui fait également à la même classe qu'elle.

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Nouvelles sur : Salimane

Des vacances scolaires en compagnie de l'oncle maternel.

L'année dernière, Salimane est allé passer quelques semaines à Wassa Péhunco, son village natal. Le village est situé dans le sud-ouest de Natitingou. Après son séjour de six semaines avec son oncle maternel, Salimane est retourné au village d'enfants SOS, satisfait. Il a dit que pendant les vacances scolaires dans son village natal, il a aidé son oncle dans l'agriculture et le travail de ménage aussi, comme aider la femme de son oncle à la cuisine par exemple.

Salimane fait ses devoirs de maison.

Salimane s'est sentit détendu et plus confiant.

Salimane a fini la première année de collège, et maintenant il est en cinquième. Mais il est confronté à des difficultés dans des matières comme l'anglais et les mathématiques. Un jour, il avait un devoir en anglais et il n'arrivait pas à s'en sortir; il a commencé à stresser, parce que le lendemain, il y aurait un test sur cet exercice. Il a finalement appelé sa mère SOS pour le lui expliquer. Quand la mère l'a aidé à résoudre l'exercice, Salimane s'est senti détendu et plus confiant.

Une excellente note.

Quand il est revenu de l'école le deuxième jour, il dit à sa mère SOS qu'ils ont effectivement fait le devoir. Il lui a aussi dit la facilité avec laquelle il s'en est sorti; et quand l'enseignant a fait la correction et a ramené les feuilles quelques jours plus tard, Salimane a obtenu une excellente note! Il en était vraiment content; sa mère SOS aussi. Elle lui demanda ce qu'il a gagné de cette expérience. Salimane répondit: «Chaque fois que j'ai un exercice, je vais travailler et poser des questions pour mieux comprendre mes leçons ...'

Adamou en classe

Nouvelles sur : Adamou

L'enseignant a sollicité le soutien de la mère SOS.

Adamou a commencé cette année scolaire avec quelques difficultés. Il a fini avec la maternelle et maintenant, il est dans sa première année à l'école primaire. Mais, son maître d'école a détecté une sorte de retard dans son processus d'acquisition, en ce qui concerne la prononciation et même l'écriture. Il a demandé à la mère d'Adamou de bien vouloir consacrer plus de temps dans son suivi, en particulier dans le traitement de ses exercices scolaires tels que le dessin et l'écriture aussi.